

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
KOJIRO KATAYAMA ET AL. ) : Examiner: Liang Che Wang  
Application No.: 09/987,486 ) : Art Unit: 2155  
Filed: November 15, 2001 ) : Conf. No. 7223  
For: INFORMATION PROCESSING ) :  
APPARATUS, MANAGEMENT ) :  
CONTROL METHOD, ) :  
COMPUTER PROGRAM AND ) :  
MEMORY MEDIUM ) : August 1, 2006

**Mail Stop: RCE**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to continued examination on the merits, a Request for Continued Examination being filed herewith, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner amend the above-identified application as follows. The changes to the claims are reflected in the listing that begins on page 2, and the Remarks begin on page 20.